

Ten Little Indians

START

One little, two little, three little Indians Four little,

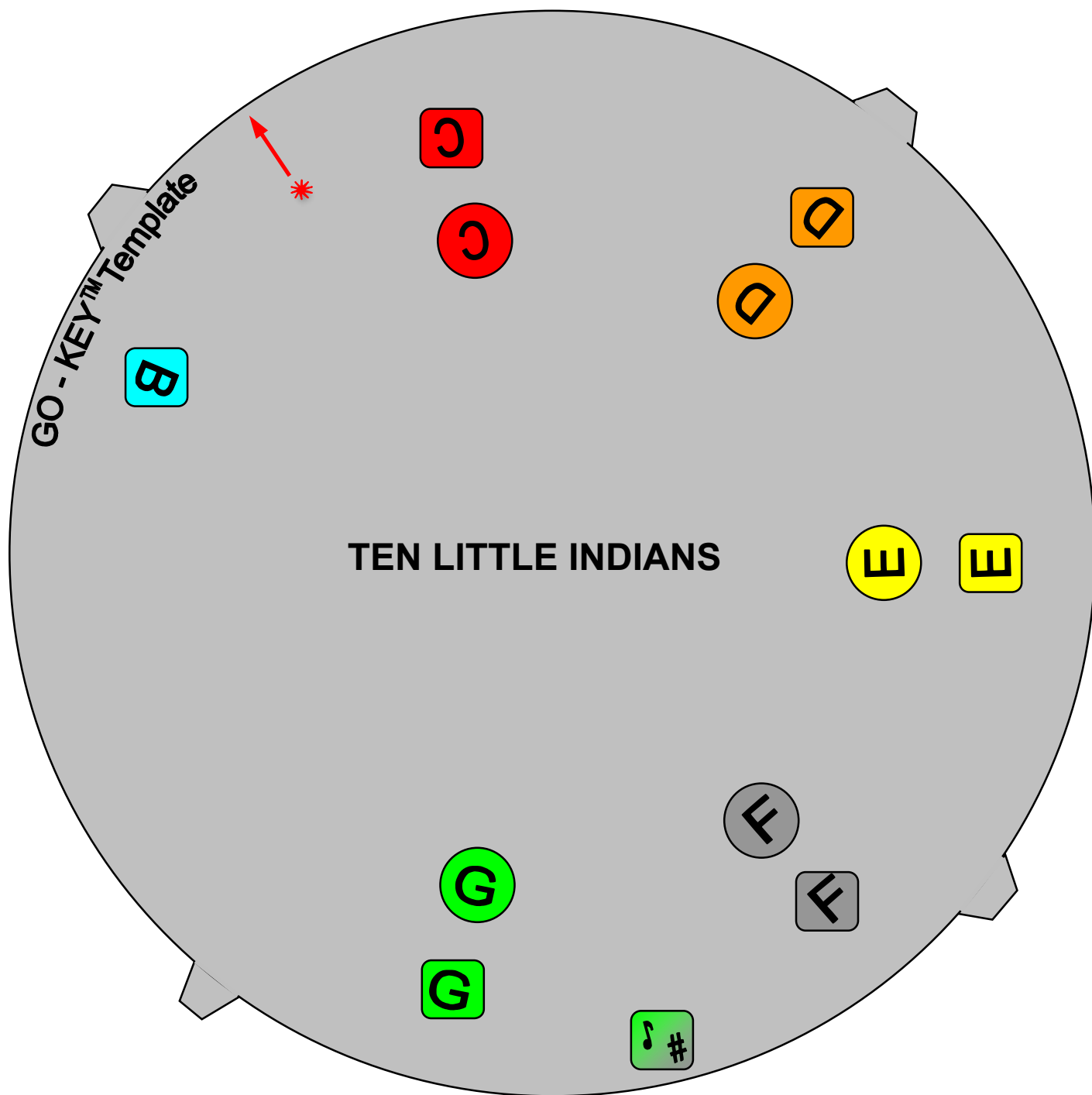
five little, six little Indians Seven little, eight little,

nine little Indians Ten little Indian boys.

Lyrics

One little, two little, three little Indians
 Four little, five little, six little Indians
 Seven little, eight little, nine little Indians
 Ten little Indian boys.

Ten little, nine little, eight little Indians
 Seven little, six little, five little Indians
 Four little, three little, two little Indians
 One little Indian boy.



History and Origin

Ten Little Indians is an American children's counting out rhyme. The term "Indians" in this sense is referring to American Indians. In 1868, songwriter Septimus Winner adapted it as a song, then called "Ten Little Injuns". The original version was written by songwriter Septimus Winner and performed at minstrel shows—a form of American entertainment consisting of comic skits, variety acts, dancing, and music. The traditional folk tune has a Round Folk Song Index number 13512 to establish the traditional origin of the work. However, today's modern lyrics are believed to be in public domain, allowing for various renderings of the song to be created, especially in nursery schools. For example, you can change the words of "Ten Little Indians" to "Ten Little Puppies" to make it less associated with Indians.

Notable Uses

- 1922, Cover of *Negrastrákarnir*, an Icelandic version of the song was published.
- 1933, The Ten Little Indians are guests of Old King Cole in the Disney cartoon of the same name.
- 1933, In the Sherlock Holmes film *A Study in Scarlet*.
- 1945, A version was included in the film "And Then There Were None".
- 1954, Bill Haley & His Comets did a version.
- 1962, "Ten Little Indians" is a single by the Beach Boys, also present on their debut album *Surfin' Safari*.
- 1996, Die Toten Hosen's adaptation called "Zehn kleine Jägermeister" ("Ten Little Hunters").

The television series *The Walking Dead* showed Sasha describing the outside world as "Ten Little Indians".